

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SY-02 CPR-01 PM-03 RSC-01 DRC-01

NSC-10 NSCE-00 /046 W
----- 043866

P 020303Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 784

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1244

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)
SUBJECT: DEP SEC VISIT TO MANILA

PASS EA/PHIL

REF: STATE 20652

1. FOR PURPOSE OF EA/PHIL BRIEFING PAPERS, EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST FOLLOWING POINTS BE HIGHLIGHTED FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH'S VISIT TO MANILA. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE NOTED, THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH MAY BE RAISED BY FILIPINOS.

(A) SECRETARY ASSISTANCE - DURING THE COURSE OF DASD-ISA DOOLIN'S VISIT JANUARY 28, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR INDICATED THAT THE GOP WAS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING MISSILE GUIDANCE TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING A MODEST MISSILE CAPABILITY FOR BOTH SCIENTIFIC AND (UNSPECIFIED) MILITARY PURPOSES. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE GOP WOULD ESCHEW SUPERSONIC PLANES AT THIS TIME BUT WAS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING PROPELLER DRIVEN PLANES SUCH AS A-1 OR T-28. BOTH CONFIGURATIONS WOULD HAVE CAPABILITY OF CLOSE GROUND SUPPORT OR BOMBING. DURING SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S CALL ON PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT HANDED HIM AIDE MEMOIRE OBVIOUSLY DRAFTED BY MELCHOR REQUESTING IN VAGUE LANGUAGE RAPID
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RESPONSE TO PHILIPPINE REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

AIDE MEMOIRE MAY HAVE BEEN DRAFTED IN ADVANCE OF RECEIPT OF CINCPAC/JUSMAG RESPONSE TO SIMILAR GOP REQUESTS MADE AT RECENT MDB MEETING HONOLULU. ALTHOUGH GOP SHOULD UNDERSTAND BY NOW THAT ITS REQUESTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE IN PROPER CHANNEL, WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT GOP WILL FOLLOW STANDARD PROCEDURE OF RAISING REQUESTS AGAIN WITH SECRETARY RUSH. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO REPLY TO SUCH REQUESTS THAT THEY ARE IN PROPER CHANNELS AND WILL BE GIVEN THOROUGH CONSIDERATION BY JUSMAG.

(B) SPRATLEYS - BOTH GENERAL ROMULO AND PRESIDENT MARCOS EXPRESSED THEIR ALARM AND CONCERN OVER CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN CHINA SEA, AND DANGGER THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES POSE TO PHILIPPINE CLAIMS TO PART OF SPRATLEYS WHICH THEY LABEL "FREEDOMLAND". ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT INDICATED DURING CALL THAT GOP WAS TAKING STEPS TO LESSEN VULNERABILITY, RECENT GVN MOVES SUGGEST PROSPECT OF HEIGHTENED CONCERN OVER SPRATLEYS. WE WOULD EXPECT (1) THAT GOP WOULD REITERATE THEIR CONCERN OVER CHINESE AND GVN ACTIVITIES IN CHINA SEA; (2) THAT THEY WOULD RESTATE THEIR CLAIM TO "FREEDOMLAND" BASED ON THEIR INTERPRETATION THAT JAPANESE PEACE TREATY DID NOT ENCOMPASS ISLANDS WHICH GOP CLAIMS ON BASIS OF RES NULLIUS. SHOULD SUBJECT ARISE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE SECRETARY RUSH WITH POSITION SOMEWHAT MORE PRECISE THAN GUIDANCE WE HAVE HERETOFORE RECEIVED. HE SHOULD, OBVIOUSLY, STATE THAT U.S. SHARES PHILIPPINE CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE USE OF FORCE BY ANYONE TO ASSERT CLAIMS TO SPRATLEY GROUP.

(C) ENDORSEMENT OF NEW SOCIETY - U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT OF MARTIAL LAW AND NEW SOCIETY. DOING BUSINESS IN PHILIPPINES AND ARRANGING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN HIGH LEVEL U.S. VISITORS AND GOP OFFICIALS OBVIOUSLY DOES CONSTITUTE IMPLICIT ENDORSEMENT OF NEW SOCIETY AND GOP HAS USED THESE VISITS, CHANCE REMARKS OF VISITORS AND SOMETIMES FICTITIOUS REMARKS TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT OF NEW SOCIETY. FACT DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH'S VISIT WILL FOLLOW SERIES OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS FROM OTHER

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WORLD LEADERS WHICH HAS BEEN BALLYHOOD BY PRESS AS RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS HIGHTENS LIKELIHOOD THAT GOP WILL PLAY DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH'S VISIT IN SAME VEIN. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS LIKELY GOP WOULD REQUEST EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT OF NEW SOCIETY BUT GENERAL ROMULO MAY USE OCCASION OF REMARKS AT LUNCHEON PLANNED FOR SECRETARY RUSH TO ELICIT RESPONSIVE LAUDATORY REMARKS BY SECRETARY RUSH. (OUR

PROPOSED REMARKS FOR SECRETARY RUSH WILL FOLLOW SEPARATELY.)

(D) LAUREL-LANGLEY - WE ARE HOPEFUL BUT NOT SANGUINE
THAT GOP WILL RESPOND TO US PAPER DRAFT PRIOR TO SECRE-
TARY RUSH VISIT. IF SO, WE WILL CABLE UPDATE. HOWEVER,
FOR TIME BEING SUGGEST USING VERSION OF EXCELLENT PAPER
YOU PREPARED FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA01244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740260/aaaacdve.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: STATE 20652
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEP SEC VISIT TO MANILA PASS EA/PHIL
TAGS: OVIP, (RUSH, KENNETH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005